



Volume XLV
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DORDT DIAMOND

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John Hansen

College president Dr. Carl Zylstra and Student Forum president Amy Vroom were joined by several campus community members in a discussion about faculty advising.

Discussion involves Zylstra, Vroom

Allison Schaap
News Assistant Editor

In an effort to better serve students in steps and decisions along their career path, College President Carl Zylstra and Student Forum President Amy Vroom, held a discussion concerning faculty advising.

This discussion was open to all students and was held in the Student Union Building on Wednesday, February 27.

Vroom says this was a great opportunity for many to meet Dr.

Zylstra and to feel comfortable coming to him with their concerns about student advising.

The discussion was aimed at keeping in mind how to continue helping Dordt students move in the right direction concerning career goals, graduate school goals and other future goals.

"Unfortunately, student advising continues to be something that many students seem to feel is lacking," says Vroom. "So Student Forum has been talking about why that is, why students are dissatisfied and how the faculty can better serve students."

Various ideas were given at the discussion. For example, the possibility of a student-to-student mentoring program, which would be an opportunity for students to talk to other students within their major. "It would give them the chance to talk about what classes they should take in a certain sequence, or to give more specialized help for graduate school or a specific career path that an advisor may not be familiar with," Vroom said.

Some students mentioned the possibility of having more clubs on campus for particular career paths,

pre-law, for instance..

Other options have come to Vroom's attention, like having a workstudy student sit in a professor's pod from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to answer questions students might have about careers. "We have had a lot of positive feedback on what would be a good student advising program," said Vroom.

"This is one of the newest issues that we are looking for direction on," Vroom said, "and through this, we hope to serve students better."

Chorale and Kantorei present winter concert

Tricia Van Ee
News Page Editor

The Dordt College Chorale and the small vocal group Kantorei will present a joint winter concert this Saturday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Both groups sing under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Kornelis.

Kantorei, which expanded this year from 16 to 24 members and now includes freshmen, will sing a variety of music ranging from a 16th century madrigal in Latin and English, Morley's "Nolo Mortem Peccatoris," to a much more mod-

ern "Lullabye" by Billy Joel. The ensemble will also sing several 20th century pieces of a more liturgical nature: the soaring "Praise God with Heart and Voice," by Ratcliff, a more prayerful "Let the Words of my Mouth," by Scott; and "Savior Come Be Mine," a haunting Norwegian folk tune set by Sateren. Student conductor Zach Vreeman, a senior choral music education major, will lead the group on "Let the Words of my Mouth."

"It's a unique experience to have the chance to conduct such a

fine ensemble as a student," said Vreeman. "Usually you don't get to lead that kind of group until much later. I'm very glad to have the experience."

Chorale will then join the Kantorei for a joyful 17th century antiphonal piece by Pachelbel, "Singet dem Herrn."

The 84-member Chorale will open the third part of the program with Soederman's "Sacred Songs," a setting of the mass featuring soprano soloist Brenda Janssen and a seven-piece string ensemble. This work will be followed by

Gretchaninoff's "Gladsome Radiance" and then Mendelssohn's "My Soul Longeth for Thee."

The Chorale will end the concert with two spirituals, "Plenty Good Room," arranged by Shaw, and "Elijah Rock," arranged by Hogan and featuring soprano soloist Heather den Hoed.

"It's very cool to be a part of both of these groups," first-time Chorale and Kantorei member Erin Houtsma said. "I enjoy having the opportunity to use my gifts and talents with other students praising God with such great music."



Concert choir heads east for break

Tricia Van Ee
News Page Editor

The Dordt College Concert Choir's annual tour will take them out east this Spring Break.

The choir will sing in nine concerts and in ten school assemblies, as well as take part in at least two church services, on their 12-day tour through Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ontario, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The 49-member choir, which is made up of sophomores, juniors, and seniors, will sing a wide variety of challenging music under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Kornelis. The program begins with a "Missa Eclectica"—the five movements of the mass, each by a different composer from different time periods: "Kyrie" by Rossini, "Gloria" by Monteverdi, "Summa" (Credo) by Part, Bernstein's "Sanctus," and "Agnus Dei" by Palestrina.

The choir will reprise some selections from earlier concerts, including "Past Life Melodies" by

Hopkins, the song with overtone singing from the fall concert, as well as four pieces from the Christmas concert program. These are MacIntyre's "Ave Maria" and Whitacre's "Lux Aurumque," both very ethereal-sounding 20th century pieces, "Betelehemu," an African Christmas song, and "Go Where I Send Thee," a Christmas spiritual.

The second half of the program opens with a set of American folk songs, "Buffalo Gals," "Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier," featuring alto Dana Ralston and soprano Tricia Van Ee, and "Polly-Wolly-Doodle," featuring a trio of Amy Vroom, Liz McPherson, and Kraig Bleeker. These are followed by an arrangement of the Beatles' "When I'm 64," and the nostalgic "Returning Home," by Kemner.

Other selections include "God of Grace and God of Laughter" by Hopp, "Abide with Me," arranged by Hirt, "Softly and Tenderly," arranged by Clausen, "Ain't Got

Time to Die," arranged by Johnson and featuring soprano Rochelle Senti. The Concert Choir will also perform their signature pieces, "Praise to the Lord" and "This is My Father's World," arranged by F.M. Christiansen and P. Christiansen, respectively, as well as the Dordt College Alma Mater.

The choir will stay with host families on their tour as a way of bringing Dordt into the homes of the college's supporters and friends. The concerts and assemblies are a way of thanking these people for their support over the years, as well as a way to introduce Dordt College to music lovers who have not had much contact with the school.

The choir plans to spend their free day in New York City, touring places like Carnegie Hall and some large cathedrals. They also hope to sing at Ground Zero, the site of September's terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center.

The Concert Choir will give a



Director Dr. Benjamin Kornelis leads the choir during a recent rehearsal.

Lori Panchot

pre-tour concert at Hope Reformed Church in Spencer, Iowa, this Sunday, March 10, at 3:00 p.m. They will give their home tour con-

cert after Spring Break on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Contest deadline looming

Rachelle Vander Werf
Staff Writer

In a quest to encourage people to write, a number of years ago, Dordt College began to sponsor the Purple Martin Writing Contest.

The Purple Martin Writing Contest is open to all Dordt students. Students can enter pieces in any or all of the following categories: fiction, poetry, personal writing, analysis, persuasion and argument and exposition. Winners in each of the categories are awarded \$100, and there is a \$50 prize for each of the second place entries.

There are four additional opportunities open only to freshmen. They are personal writing, analysis, persuasion and argument and exposition. First place winners in

each of these categories receive a cash prize of \$40. There are no prizes for second place winners in the freshmen categories. Freshmen, however, are also eligible to win prizes in the first categories.

Entries are placed in envelopes with the names removed to ensure confidentiality in the judging process. Each piece of writing is then examined by the Dordt College English faculty. Entries are read by at least three faculty members and are judged for clarity, thematic significance and style. In addition, all entries should conform to a Christian worldview.

The Purple Martin Writing Contest took root at Dordt College a number of years ago. The contest sprang from the Martin Seven scholarship funds, which were

donated by Martin Seven, who worked in the campus library for a number of years. To make the contest especially unique to Dordt College, "Purple" was added to the name after a few years. This was done because of the Purple Martin bird houses that could be found around campus.

Each year, winners of the contest are announced at a short, informal ceremony to which everyone is invited to attend. Names of the winners are also published in the Dordt Diamond at the end of April. Previous years, entries in this contest have gone on to be printed in both church publications as well as *The Write Source*.

Entries for this year's Purple Martin Writing Contest are due March 8.



Lori Panchot

Senior Heidi Kooiman, along with 25 other Dordt women, shines on the stage during a recent performance of "The House of Bernarda Alba." The play takes place in the courtyard of a Spanish house in the heat of the summer in the 1930's. But the real heat is generated by a tyrannical mother and her five daughters who are not allowed to follow their natural passions and dreams. Performances are Thursday and Friday evenings at 7:30, all at TePaske Theatre. Tickets are available in the Box Office.

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The *Diamond* is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome.

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Honors program moving along

Steve Kloosterman
Staff Writer

Dordt is considering developing an honors program for gifted students. A study committee has been meeting since September for this purpose. They have reviewed programs of other colleges, discussed the appropriateness of an honors program at Dordt and visited a conference hosted by the National Collegiate Honors Council.

As of December first, the Honors Program Study Committee completed a preliminary report containing a rationale for a possible honors program on campus, several statements about the goals and characteristics such a program should have and two different exploratory options developed for the structuring and implementation of an honors program.

The report is being reviewed by the Academic Council as well as by all faculty members individually. The report is by no means conclusive. "These aren't the actual proposals," said Professor Chris Rehn, a Study Committee member who worked out a proposed preliminary implementation of an honors pro-

gram. "We're still brainstorming."

Eventually, final proposals will be brought before a faculty meeting for approval, which could happen as early as the end of the semester or as late as the end of the summer.

The only academic function ever used by Dordt that may be compared to an honors program is that of a Dean's list. The Dean's list consisted of the publication of the names of students with superior grade point averages.

"These aren't the actual proposals. We're still brainstorming."

Professor Chris Rehn

The Dean's list practice was discontinued because, as the Study Committee Report quoted Professor Daryl VanderKooi from a document written by Jim Bos, the Registrar, the Dean's list "tended to segregate the student body by creating levels of status based upon intellect; honors did not necessarily recognize working up to abilities."

The Student Committee Report stated that Bos reported students avoiding difficult classes in hopes

of maintaining an inflated GPA.

The rationale for a potential honors program, written by Professor Mary Denglar in the Study Committee report, reconciled the concept of an honors program with the institutional values of Dordt College and the Reformational worldview.

"Such a program would provide the academic and co-curricular experiences that challenge and guide the academically gifted student," wrote Denglar. She cited Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12 as an example of how scripture supports the development of various gifts, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, let us use them (Romans 12:6)."

But whether or not an honors program will ever be adopted has yet to be resolved. Rehn noted that there are a significant number of faculty opposed to the idea of an honors program altogether.

"Recent research among faculty has yielded disparate responses," Denglar said in her report. She wrote that while some professors believe that an honors program would tend to elevate academically bright students over others, other

faculty argue that it is lopsided for Dordt on the one hand to make accommodations for academically slow students with the ASK program while refusing to adopt an organized program to accommo-

"If we look at what Dordt already offers, we see that an unspoken Honors program has practically formed itself."

Professor Mary Denglar

date academically bright students.

And even among those who would support an honors program, there is a great difference of opinion as to how it would be implemented. Rehn's preliminary proposed program included students entering the program not based on their academic record, but instead being nominated by professors for their Christian attitude towards academics. Registrar Jim Bos' proposal introduced students to the program based on traditional criteria (a 3.5 GPA and 28 cumulative ACT score as minimum). Bos' program suggested a 20 credit-hour schedule (on par with a minor--this

would put honors recognition on your diploma) of various special classes, seminars and special research. Rehn's proposal contained the use of honors projects that would allow for a great deal of creativity, range of work and therefore credit: "Students might collaboratively write a book, make a film, or conduct cross-disciplinary research."

Mary Denglar's idea is the organization of existing programs, such as field trips, seminars, individual studies, recitals, activity scholarships, student presentations of papers and creative writings and small classes into the program. "If we look at what Dordt already offers, we see that an unspoken Honors program has practically formed itself," she wrote.

So while there is no definite program set in stone, discussion is continuing about the potential Dordt honors program. The Study Committee's Report may be viewed on DENIS by following the "Documents" link. Students with suggestions or comments should contact Student Forum.

Survey rates campus health

Mitch Beaumont
Editor

The life of a student on Dordt's campus involves numerous different elements. From classes and homework assignments to club and committee meetings, students on this campus are always in the midst of some project or task.

The same would seem to ring true for the professors. In addition to preparing their lectures and grading papers, they also have committee meetings and academic materials to produce periodically.

Is there time to exercise and keep healthy? The Personal and Community Health class, taught by Mr. Darryl De Ruiter, Instructor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation wanted to know just that.

Recently the class surveyed a portion of the campus that included 60 students, 30 faculty members and 30 staff members. De Ruiter says that while they only surveyed about seven percent of the student body, that should not detract from the results. "This was a non-scientific survey and the results were designed to be non-specific," he said. "I do feel, though, that we talked with a basic composite of each part of campus."

De Ruiter says the survey was based on a holistic model in which the questions focused on six different dimensions of health. "A holistic model examines the physical, emotional, spiritual, occupational, or task, social and intellectual elements of an individual's health," he said.

The survey was divided into three sections, each one evaluating parts of the holistic health of Dordt's campus. The first section measured an individual's basic satisfaction or enjoyment of their life and their role on campus. The survey also evaluated the amount of time that an individual spends doing devotions, working out, doing their job on campus and spending time with others in a social setting. Finally, the health survey asked participants to rate how they think they are doing in each area of the holistic model.

De Ruiter says the results of the survey are encouraging but there is still room for improvement. The survey found that 88% of those surveyed fell into the "good" category. Only twelve participants were rated in fair to poor health while 18 participants fell into the "excellent" category.

Participants were categorized by both their gender and the group

they belong to whether it was student, faculty or staff. "The male faculty group and the female student group had the highest point average by gender," said De Ruiter. "The faculty as a whole had the highest point average by group."

While the health survey did not separate the participants by age or class (i.e. freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), De Ruiter says typically students in their last year at Dordt show more personal responsibility for their health. "A lot of things happen between the time you enter college and the time you graduate. Individuals grow and change and part of that change is learning what is good for your body and what you can do without," he said.

De Ruiter says the room for improvement comes from figuring out how to move from good to excellent holistic health. "If people realized that other areas of their health can be affected positively or negatively, they would pay more attention to being healthy," he said. "Students should find the time in their schedule to exercise, but also to spend quiet time in devotions and to socialize with those around them. A person's health is more than just physical."

PLIA starting soon

Joe Eggebeen
Staff Writer

In less than two weeks, students will be streaming off campus on Spring Break, ready to relax, recharge and enjoy more than a week off. Not everyone will be going home for spring break, though. Approximately 200 students will be traveling to 18 sites throughout the United States to show the importance of "Putting Love Into Action" on mission trips.

PLIA originated in 1981 by Andrew Gorter and Kevin Vryhof, who served with ten other students to make PLIA become a reality. Two years later in 1983, PLIA became an official program of Dordt College.

Now, for nearly 20 years, students from Dordt have been traveling all over the United States on PLIA mission trips. On Spring Break 2000, nearly 250 students from Dordt College attended the various mission trips.

This year, approximately 200 students, in groups of about a dozen, will be driving to serve in Alabama, California, Colorado,

Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. These students will be working with a Christian organization based in the community, doing whatever the organization would like to see accomplished. Some groups will work on houses, others will run soup kitchens, and still others will run after-school programs. The students work together as a group to serve and to grow together in Christ.

A council of students governs PLIA, with Pastor Draayer advising, and providing previous experience. The students run PLIA by contacting organizations, working out details for the trips and outlining the work each group will do.

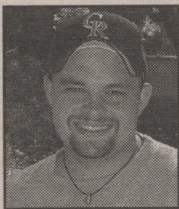
Students raise funds through events like dances and a soup supper, as well as petitioning area churches and students' home churches for donations.

PLIA uses I Peter 4:10-11 as its theme verse, reminding people that they need to "share gifts and outreach in God's name, because that is a part of worshipping God."



Cynicism equals survival--or does it?

Mitch Beaumont
Editor



I've been noticing a change in myself lately. It's not necessarily something I'm proud of, nor is it something I know

how to stop.

While I'm not proud of this change, I also think it's partly necessary for survival in this "survival of the fittest" world that we live in. I suppose I first noticed it when watching a video for Gen. 300 called "Affluenza." It addresses the materialistic worldview that millions of Americans operate according to much of the time. I started to think because of a certain part of the video that addresses buying on impulse and blowing money on unnecessary things.

When I saw this part of the video, it occurred to me that I've been looking at societal trends, such as impulse buying, with increasing cynicism. During the

Olympics when the berets that American athletes wore outside of competition came out in stores, I found myself internally mocking those who were flocking to buy these odd-looking, instant fashion trends. I began seeing the Olympics as a materialistic enterprise rather than an internationally unifying event. Just because of a stupid, little beret.

I realized something else just this past weekend with regard to my increasing cultural resistance. As I was participating in the corporate worship at GIFT on Sunday night, I found myself resisting the need to sing and participate because everyone else was doing it. This surprised and disturbed me. My worship of God was hindered, almost prevented, because of my all-pervading cynicism.

So there I am in the midst of half the student body at one of the best worship services of the year and I can't bring myself to do more than move my lips to the words. At one point I looked around and glanced at people worshipping.

Some were bouncing up and down with their hands raised in obvious passionate worship. Others were standing still and singing their hearts out, but they had a sense of serenity to them. Then there was me.

I know that God desires my worship. I know that as a Christian I am called to worship God in all settings, not just corporately. Despite knowing these things, I am also calling into question the need for real worship in a corporate setting. I can stand there in the midst of the student body at a worship service and easily get swept away in the emotion of the moment, or I can stand there and do absolutely nothing except read the words to myself and probably get nothing out of the service.

While my cynicism seems to be getting in the way of my true worship of my God, I think it is also introducing an important principle for the rest of life. Let me use the Olympics example once more. Let's assume that I usually go along with cultural trends and when I saw

those berets become a hot item, I went out searching for one. Let's also assume that when I found one, I spent whatever it took to obtain one.

Now, contrast that to what I'm actually feeling. I resisted any attractiveness those berets may have because everyone else thinks they're the greatest thing since sliced bread. Would I have been happier with one of those berets? Most likely not, but am I a better person because I was so cynical about the berets? Again, probably not.

Where do I draw the line between worshipping my Father in heaven and being real with my emotions? Along the same lines, how do I figure out the boundary between being objective to cultural trends and being so cynical in everything that I'm no fun to be around anymore? These are questions on the forefront of my mind, and I'm not sure I can answer them yet.

ANWR response

Dear Editor,

As the only student on campus from the beautiful state of Alaska, I am confident that I have lived with the debate about oil drilling in ANWR longer than many people here on campus, more so than any of those who are so harshly opposing it now. With the wealth of myths brought about in the last two issues of the Diamond, I feel it necessary to clear up a few things.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is more than 19 million acres, more than half the size of Iowa. The area being debated is not all of those many acres, instead only 1.5 million acres (8%). That is still a large area, but with the advances in technology, incredible amounts of oil can be recovered with very small wells.

There are false visions of a wildlife refuge with fields of small pumps, but the pumps in Alaska are very different, sitting on a gravel base of only six acres. That seems large, but then consider that one six-acre well head can recover all of the oil for the surrounding six square miles! The wells in ANWR would never be any closer than 4 miles apart! All the pumps needed to explore the coastal plain would add up to only 2000 acres in the 19,000,000.

Please see "Drilling Opposition" on page eight.

Faculty policy is faulty

Dear Editor,

I am writing regarding the executive board's recent decision refusing faculty members' requests for exemptions to membership in a Christian Reformed Church. The decision is so discouraging I feel it would be wrong not to speak up. I am a part-time student at Dordt, taking classes in the education department to become certified to teach ESL (English as a Second Language). I am also the wife of a faculty member. These two roles afford me a unique opportunity. As a student, I listen to the college's teachings; as a wife, I am directly affected by the institution's policies toward its faculty.

The education department at Dordt rightly stresses to students the uniqueness of each image bearer of God. As teachers we are to see each of our students as having unique gifts and life experiences that all contribute to the classroom as a whole. We are to value each of them as part of the body of Christ, appreciating, with the differences, how each of us fits together to make a greater whole which God has created. In both my Multi-Cultural Education and Methods of Teaching a Foreign Language classes, I was taught that God loves diversity. He loves not diversity of religion, but diversity of experience, culture and language.

This is what Dordt teaches its students, but the recent board decisions do not indicate that Dordt believes this as an institution. The institution does not seem to be living out what it teaches. The board seems to feel the college will lose its distinctive CRC identity (although it presents itself to students as non-denominational) if it doesn't require every faculty member to join a Christian Reformed Church. But what is Dordt's real identity? Is it the CRC? Is it tradition? Or is it in the person of Jesus Christ? What is the real purpose of Dordt's education? Is it to produce students who are disciples of Christ or mouthpieces for the CRC? Jesus Himself never required conformity of His disciples, only discipleship.

Students who hold opinions different from what the CRC teaches find themselves on the outside looking into a very tight community that does not accept them. The lack of open and honest debate on campus also concerns me; there are too many "givens" that can't be questioned, too many underlying assumptions that can't be discussed in an open way. They are simply assumed to be true. For those of us who are not part of the CRC system, this silence amounts to a rejection of who we are in Christ. It amounts to a rejection of the paths He has brought us on, the experi-

ences and lessons He has given and taught us--an outright rejection, with little discussion. Why do I hear it in the classroom but don't see it in the institution? Why is what God has taught me less relevant than what He has taught you? Why does the institution emphasize uniqueness and diversity, but fails to practice it?

The executive board's decision also disturbs me because I believe the current inward-looking nature of the college and community to be an unhealthy one. In my curriculum class, we discussed hidden curriculum, or unintended learning outcomes. For example, a student learns to dislike history because of the inadequate methods and practices of the teacher. Here at Dordt, the unintended outcome of the curriculum is conformity.

Conformity is highly valued both within Sioux Center and within Dordt College. The combination produces an unhealthy atmosphere for those of us who are outside the loop. We live here in the community of Sioux Center, as well as being a part of the college. We live, not as members of a tightly knit community, but as outsiders to a system that does not value our experiences in Christ.

Please do not contribute to the problem. Allow diversity of expression within reformed

denominations. Allow people to be who they are in Christ.

My husband and I lived many years abroad, mostly in Muslim countries. Within that context, every Christian, and there weren't many, had to work for unity. We had to put aside our small differences and focus on the One who had brought all of us there. There was no conformity; there couldn't be; we came from too many countries and denominations. There was real unity in diversity, a vibrant living in the Spirit that is lacking here.

I come from a patchwork quilt of experience. In my background, there are Methodists, Catholics, Assemblies of God, Anglican, Baptist, Evangelical Free and now the Christian Reformed Church. From each of these traditions and from the people who were part of them, I have learned and grown and understood more of God. I have received much. But the breadth of experience God has given me is not understood here; it is rejected in favor of a stifling conformity that is a real burden to bear.

Please consider the true goals of Dordt College as an institution. Please change the policy and allow faculty members to be the unique image-bearers of God that He has made them.

Sincerely,
Lynda Warner

Black History Response

Dear Editor--

I must say I was perturbed at the accusations made at the beginning of "Why Black History month?". The fact that Dordt does not take off Martin Luther King Jr. Day in no way reflects Dordt's respect for the man nor his race. He was a great man with amazing accomplishments.

The fact is Dordt takes almost no holidays off. Using this same line of reasoning Dordt also does not notice nor respect America's workers, Columbus's journey, all of the veterans of this great nation, the presidents that have served this country, nor even Christ's death on the cross.

Certainly Dordt and its students recognize and respect each of these however Dordt has deemed it necessary to still have classes on these days. I feel it is a bit presumptuous to chastise Dordt simply because it still holds classes on these holidays.

I felt the article had a demeaning tone and I did not appreciate the premises woven into article's conclusion.

Sincerely,
Henry VanderPol



March 7, 2002

Features

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An Egyptian experience



Allison with her Egyptian host family: (l-r) Touta, Hany, Didi, fellow MESPer Melanie and Allison

Allison De Jong A&E Page Editor

August 28, 2001--December 18, 2001: I'm a student on the Middle East Studies Program, living in Cairo, Egypt, and traveling through Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria, and Turkey.

People ask me, "So, how was Egypt?"

"Um, it was awesome." Blech. How can I answer in one word or sentence?

It was hot and humid. Cloudless skies day after day. Crazy, homicidal traffic: cars, buses, taxis, donkey carts, bicycles, and, yes, camels. Try crossing six lanes of that! Call to prayer at 4:30 a.m. over loudspeakers across the city. A teeming mass of humanity, 21 million people.

Exotic women in stylish, flowing skirts and elegant higabs (head scarves). Old men in dusty gal-

abeeyahs. Beggars, women, children, blind men, holding out their hands, asking for baksheesh, dirty fingers curling gratefully over the crumpled bills we hand them.

Tiny juice stands, mooz bi lebn (banana with milk) for only two pounds (50 cents), the delicious cool frothiness served in thick glass mugs. Butcher shops displaying fleshy ghost-pale sheep's heads.

Smog like you wouldn't believe, shrouding the city in a grey fog. The Nile stretching silver in the morning light. The exhilaration of riding in a taxi across the 6th of October bridge, seeing the sun gleaming above the tall apartment buildings and luxury hotels along the Nile.

I feel like I'm writing about home.

"So, how was Egypt?" they ask. "What was it like?"

Egypt is not a wealthy nation, not wealthy as North Americans

would define it. Egypt's wealth lies in its people, its culture, its history.

Egyptians love foreigners, especially Americans. They may not be too fond of America's government, but they eagerly welcome its ordinary people into their homes and lives.

"Welcome to Egypt!" they say. "Where you from?", rolling their "r"s in the unique way of the Arabic speaker. "Ohh! Amrika! Kwayyis owie owie. Ahlan wa sahlani!" (Very, very good! I welcome you!)

And before long, I've been invited to sit down and have a cup of tea (hot and sweet), or perhaps a Coke (icy cold in a glass bottle), and a cookie... a few minutes later, I'll find myself at the center of attention as dozens of Egyptians crowd around, asking questions (in English) or commenting to one another (in rapid Arabic).

It's strange to walk down the

street at home and not be noticed.

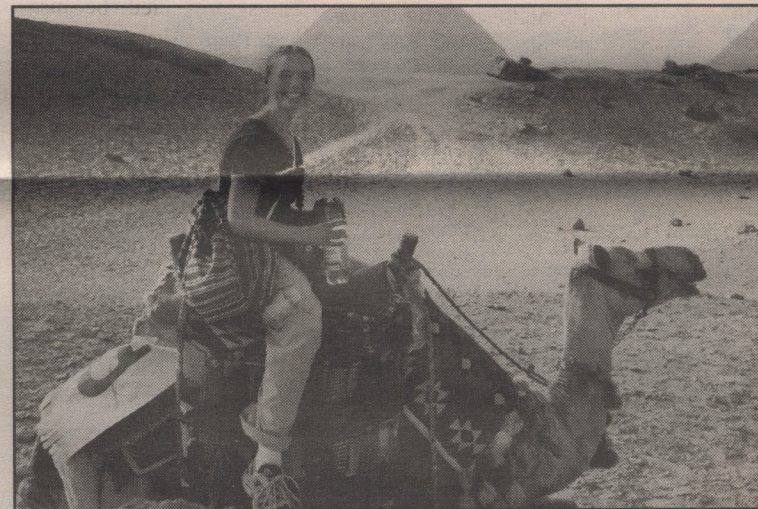
Egyptian men love Western women for all the wrong reasons. That's something I don't miss: the impertinent stares, the harassment, the feeling of uneasiness as I walk past a group of leering men.

Often they'll throw out a pick-up line: "You dropped it! You dropped it! ... My heart." "You have beautiful eyes." (C'mon, can't they be a little more original?) Or, and this is my favorite, "Oh my God ... for you, I kill my wife!" (And I'm supposed to be flattered?) Once I started learning Arabic, I could understand some other comments as well, "Di helwa owie!" (She's really beautiful!) was the one I heard most often.

Many of the men get their jolies hitting on Western women, but at the same time, the sense of honor

bazaar. Sure, I got the background knowledge from my textbooks, but what I remember is talking to Muslim women about their faith. Attending Friday noon prayers at a mosque. Bargaining for souvenirs in the Khan el Khalili. Trying out my Arabic on taxi drivers. Playing with children in Garbage City. Buying ice cream from one shop so many times that the workers recognized me after the second week. Living with an Egyptian family for ten days. Watching Cairo turn upside-down during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Listening to Palestinians in Jordan telling me about living in refugee camps for five years after being forced out of their villages in '48 or '67. Hearing the sirens wail outside the Old City of Jerusalem, knowing another suicide bomber



The epitomized Egyptian experience: Allison sits on a camel (no, she's not riding it!) with the Great Pyramid of Giza in the background.

in Egyptian culture is remarkable. As a friend and I were waiting for the Ma'adi bus one evening, a large middle-aged man came up to us and started acting a little too friendly, in a way completely unacceptable in Egyptian culture. When our bus came, he followed us onto it. My friend and I backed away; when he reached for her arm, I said, loudly, "Leh! Leh!" which means "No!" It was all I could think to say. Immediately, a young man standing in the back of the bus moved between us and the older man. Another man followed, giving us double protection. A few stops later, the skanky old man got off the bus.

I'm not sure that anyone here would do that. For these men, it was the natural response; two foreign women being bothered by an annoying man was unacceptable. This man's actions were not honorable. They were shameful, and two strangers put a stop to it, firmly and silently.

As I studied Arabic and Islam, Middle Eastern politics and Arab peoples and cultures, I found that my real classroom was the street, the coffee shop, the restaurant, the

had gone up in a blaze of glory. Listening as an Israeli settler coolly told us the Palestinian people don't exist.

Some of what I learned can't be put into words.

I learned more than just the tenets of Islam; I saw them put into practice. I learned more than just a few Arabic phrases; I heard how they reflected the culture. I learned more than just Middle Eastern politics; I met people who are victims of tyranny and injustice, people who don't know if they'll ever see their families again, people who are afraid for the future towards which their children walk. I learned more than just anthropological differences between peoples of the Middle East; I saw Circassians dance in Jordan and had strong Turkish coffee with a Druze couple in Syria; I talked about God with my Turkish, Muslim homestay sister and bought bracelets from young Bedouin girls in the Sinai.

"How was the Middle East? Did you have a good time?"

Yes. Yes, I did.



One of the many garbage cities of Cairo; people live in these areas, collecting and sorting garbage for a living

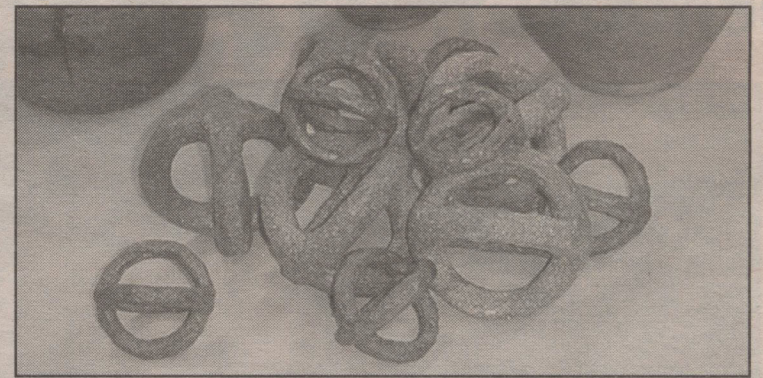


Art majors display work



John Hansen

Starting March 8, nine junior art majors will display their artwork. Pieces ranging from paintings and sculptures to photographs and carvings are on display in the B.J. Haan through March 29.



Andrew De Young Staff Writer

Art majors at Dordt spend a lot of time and effort creating their own works of art, and this month some of them have the opportunity to show the fruits of their labors. The Junior Art Show, in which junior art majors show off their best work, is currently on display. And, as these students are quickly discovering, making art and showing art are two very different things.

According to professor Susan Van Geest, "Making art is one thing, but showing it to others is quite another. It can be intimidating and make an artist feel very vulnerable."

Mandy Allen, one of the artists featured in the show, agrees. "It can be threatening," she says. "This isn't my first art show, so I'm getting used to it by now."

The Junior Art Show is a requirement for all art majors here at Dordt, says Van Geest. "It's a great opportunity for them to show their work and to give them experience doing shows." Students are

also required to give a show when they are seniors.

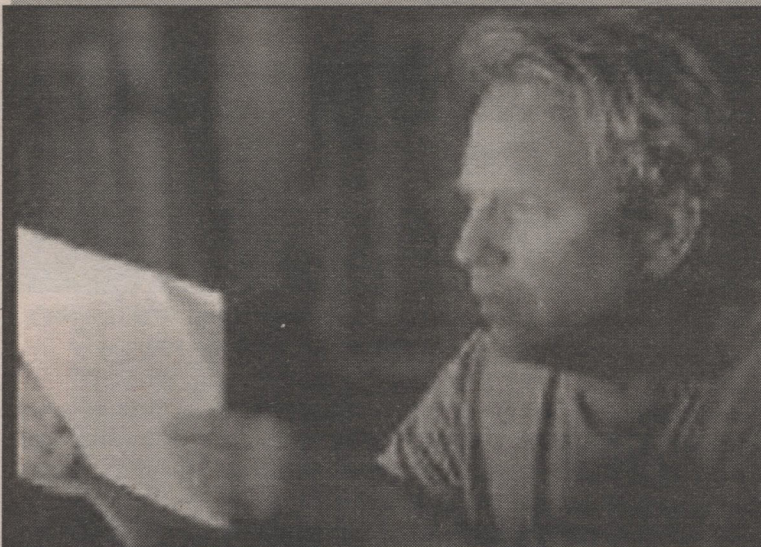
Planning for the show began months in advance. Students met with professors early on to pick out the best work from their portfolios. Then the students prepared to show their artwork and wrote a short description of each piece.

On March 8, there will be a reception in the gallery of the B.J. Haan Auditorium where the Dordt community can meet with the artists and discuss their work.

Talking about their art might be a little intimidating, says Van Geest, but she believes it is important. The reception will help to bridge the gap between artist and audience, she believes. "Some people find it hard to interpret art," she says. "The reception will give the audience a chance to communicate with the artist."

In addition to the display in the B.J. Haan Auditorium, there will also be art on display in the gallery in the classroom building. The Junior Art Show will go until Spring Break.

Dragonfly: One Mellow Drama



Chris Maust Staff Writer

Kevin Costner stars as an emotionally-torn husband with an amputated spouse. A doctor volunteering to tribes in the deep jungles of Venezuela, she was lost to a mudslide in the lush South American jungle, and Kevin is unable to deal with his grief. He returns home to his wife's hostile parrot and an empty chair opposite him at dinner.

He relieves his stresses by working at the emergency room. He leaves a suicide case to die while he removes a seriously premature baby from its dying mother. George Clooney he's not, and his rebellious doctoring soon catches the attention of his supervisor, who recommends either a six-month hiatus—or a permanent one. Kevin doesn't listen well, and stops by the hospital regularly on his enforced vacation.

While he's there he stops to

visit his wife's former patients in the oncology ward. He hears strange tales of the ghost of his wife appearing to the children, but laughs off the idea. But the cry of ghost will not be silenced, and Kevin is forced to search out the disembodied soul of his wife.

Technically, this film has wonderful camera shots and an unbelievable cast. The downside is that neither of these will save a weak script from ruining a movie. "Dragonfly" wasn't an awful movie, it just had a very difficult time getting started. Costner's character seems to wander around and have vague emotional dialogue with two-dimensional characters for the first twenty minutes. Those of you who are involved with Wycliffe Ministries might enjoy the wondrous jungle scenery and the hair-raising native piloting.

"Dragonfly" is genuinely frightening at times and has a very cli-

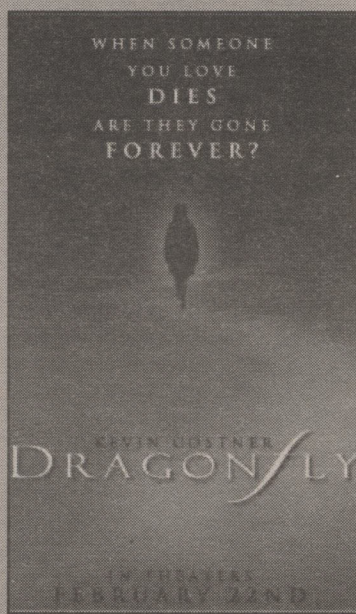
matic ending, but the pains of a poor script seriously wrinkle the fabric of this film. I recommend it lukewarmly.

Preview Bylines:

"Minority Report": Spielberg sci-fi flick where citizens are punished before the laws are broken. Looks very, very tasty. Big Brother probably has his eye on this one. Feeling: Eager.

"Forty Days and Forty Nights": "Heart-rending" teen movie about a boy who abstains from "marital pleasures" for forty days and forty nights. Perhaps "stomach-turning" would be more appropriate? Feeling: Nauseous.

"The Bourne Identity": Ian Fleming created James Bond; Robert Ludlum created Jason Bourne. Feeling: Ecstatic.



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March 7, 2002

Sports

Page 7



John Hansen

Senior tracksters Lorealee Bykerk (left) and Liz Dykstra (right) work on starts together at a recent practice. Bykerk and Dykstra, along with three other seniors, are competing in their final track and field season this year.

Track seniors moving on

Jacque Scoby
Sports Page Editor

For three Dordt seniors, this year marks the last time they will compete as part of an organized track team. Lorealee Bykerk, Jill (Starkenburg) Schreurs and Liz Dykstra are all completing their senior track seasons this year.

Bykerk, a Spanish and secondary education major from Demotte, Indiana, is now in her tenth year of running track. "I've been running since I was in fifth grade," she says. Also a member of Dordt's women's cross country team, Bykerk specializes in the longer distance events, namely the 1500 meter and the 3000 meter run. Bykerk also participated in basketball and indoor soccer at Illiana Christian High School. She says these experiences have helped

her learn to apply team aspects to a somewhat individualistic sport like track.

Being a senior leader on the team is important to Bykerk. Although she has to juggle between student teaching and track workouts, she feels it is important to both be an encouragement and a mediator. "Coach really looks to the seniors for advice on how to handle certain situations," she says. "I think all of the seniors have stepped up to fill the leadership role."

Bykerk hopes to land a teaching position after graduation, and also hopes to coach in a high school setting.

Another senior on this year's team is Jill Schreurs. An environmental studies major from Palmyra, New York, Schreurs tries to stay focused on keeping a good attitude and "giving pole vault my last solid effort his season."

A pole vaulting specialist, Schreurs has qualified for the national meet six times during her college career, achieving All-American status twice in indoor track. She also competed at nationals twice while in high school, and set the New York state record after a single year of jumping. Schreurs competed this past weekend at the indoor track meet which was held in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Schreurs plans to move to Grand Rapids, Michigan, after graduation with her husband Joel, who will be attending seminary.

Liz Dykstra rounds out the senior class on this year's team. Dykstra, a Spanish major from Grandville, Michigan, competes mainly in sprinting events. She, along with Schreurs, were also senior members of the women's soccer team at Dordt.

Basketball players earn honors

Jacque Scoby
Sports Page Editor

Six members of the Dordt basketball teams have received post-season conference honors. Juniors Evan Beimers and Shawn De Stigter were named to the Great Plains Athletic Conference men's all-conference team released this past week.

Beimers was the Defenders' leading scorer, averaging nearly 15 points per game. De Stigter finished the season averaging 12.5 points per game as well as coming up with 2.4 steals per game. Dordt's leading rebounder, Eric Maas, and sophomore Kyle Van Arendonk nabbed honorable mention honors. The Defenders, coached by Greg Van Solen, concluded the season 11-5 and finished third in the conference.

Senior Serena Van Beek and freshman Katie Bleeker earned post-season honors for the Lady Defenders. Van Beek concluded her career in third place on the all-time scoring list and averaged 14.5 points per game. She also holds career records in three-point shooting. Bleeker joins Van Beek on the honorable mention list with 7.7 points and 2.4 assists per game. Van Beek and Bleeker led the Lady Defenders to a 5-21 finish under head coach Glenn Bouma.

Stats

MENS BASKETBALL GPAC Quarterfinals

Dakota Wesleyan L 82-95
Scorers: Shawn De Stigter (20)
Eric Maas (20)
Ryan Dooyema (11)
Evan Beimers (10)

INDOOR TRACK

**GPAC Conference Meet
2/23/02 Nebraska Wesleyan
WOMEN**

2nd place: 4x880 yard relay,
9:59.64
4th place: Rebecca Demarest,
1000 yd. run, 2:51.75

MEN

4th place: Jon Dekkers, 880 yd
run, 1:59.12
Stefan Petersen, 1000 yd run,
2:20.60

6th place: Jeff Taylor, 1000 yd
run, 2:22.23
Tony Reitema, 60 yd hurdles,
8.34
4x880 yd relay, 8:18.46

NAIA National Indoor Meet 2/28/02-3/2/02 Johnson City, TN

Individual Events

Jill Schreurs (pole vault) 9'6"
(DNP)

Tony Reitema (55 m hurdles)
7.99 sec (DNP)

Jeff Taylor (1000 m run) DNP

Relay Events

Men's 4 x 800 m relay (Stefan
Petersen, Marcus Scholten, Jon
Dekkers, Jeff Taylor) 8th place

Women's 4 x 800 m relay (Emily
Kauk, Tanya Holtrop, Kristi
Meendering, Rebecca Demarest)
8th place

Blades place third

Jason Mulder
Staff Writer

The Dordt Blades finished the year by placing 3rd in the GPCHA Finals in Des Moines on Feb. 22-

23. They lost Friday night to SDSU 5-0 after arriving late and having to go directly onto the ice. Saturday the team defeated Iowa State University 7-5 for an overall record of 21-14-1. Congratulations on such a great season!

National track results

Jacque Scoby
Sports Page Editor

For the nine track and field athletes who qualified for the national indoor meet last weekend, the indoor season has come to an end. Dordt qualified two 4 x 800 meter relay teams and sent three athletes to compete in individual events.

Jill Schreurs, a senior pole vaulter, cleared 9'6" but failed to

place in her final indoor competition. Tony Reitema, competing in the 55 meter hurdles, finished preliminaries with a time of 7.99 seconds, but did not advance to the semifinals. Jeff Taylor, who also competed on the men's 4 x 800 relay, competed in the preliminaries of the 1000 meter run. Both relay teams advanced to the final rounds, but finished eighth, two places out of All-American status.



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News BRIEFS



Compiled by Sarah Den Boer
Features and World Editor

INDIA

Police in the Indian state of Gujarat say Hindu leaders led some of the mobs involved in recent riots in which more than 600 people, most of them Muslims, were killed. The Hindu leaders are running a campaign to build a temple on the ruins of a demolished mosque in a northern town, a dispute which is being seen by some of having triggered off the riots.

IRAN

Dara and Sara are Iran's answer to Ken and Barbie. The Muslim dolls have been developed by a government agency to promote traditional values, with their modest clothing and pro-family backgrounds. They are widely seen as an effort to counter the American dolls and accessories that have flooded the Iranian market.

IRELAND

The Irish Republic is once again trying to resolve the vexed issue of abortion. The polls opened on Wednesday morning for a new referendum, and according to the opinion polls, the result--expected on Thursday--could be close.

FRANCE

Nineteen workmen have been rescued after spending six hours trapped in a burning tunnel being built just outside of Paris. The blaze broke out on the same day that France agreed to reopen the Mont Blanc Alpine tunnel link to Italy, closed since a fire in 1999, which killed 39 people.

SPAIN

Police in Spain say they have smashed an international drug ring, arresting 12 people and seizing 600 kilograms of cocaine. They had been watching the alleged drug traffickers for more than a year and finally launched raids in the Spanish capital Madrid and in Alicante on the Mediterranean Coast. Police said the cocaine was produced in Latin America and was destined for the European market.

PHILIPPINES

A mayor in the southern Philippines has resorted to unusual tactics to try to get Muslim rebels to release hostages. He says he has begun taking into custody the wives and male relatives of rebels who kidnapped two Americans and a local nurse. The three have been held since early last year. The mayor's action has been condemned by a U.S. military spokesman in the area.

Earthwatch

Stephanie Oppenorth
Staff Editor

Energy security has been a hot topic since the terrorist attacks of September 11, and with it renewed enthusiasm for developing domestic sources of energy has sprung up. A previous article established that drilling in Alaska is not wise or stewardly.

If drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not the best response to the nation's need for energy, what other policy options are available? The next few articles will aim to answer this question by examining policies directed toward conservation and the development of alternative energy sources.

One policy that has been debated is a tax on carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide is emitted when

fossil fuels, such as oil, are burned. These emissions are a threat to public health and are believed to contribute to global warming. Imposing a tax on carbon emissions has been proposed in order to reduce the consumption of oil and therefore reduce the amount of carbon released.

This policy has several advantages. First, it would be efficient. Those who consume the oil will pay the price of added damage to the environment and to public health. This policy is fair because those who use the most oil will also have to pay the most. It is believed that this tax will spur the development of new, more efficient technologies that are vital in curbing the demand for oil. Finally, this tax will boost the U.S.'s poor international reputation concerning carbon emissions caused by its refusal to join the Kyoto Protocol.

One drawback that is frequently raised in response to this policy is that it has the potential to be a regressive tax, meaning the poor will bear a greater burden because they will have to spend a greater proportion of their income on fuel. However, policymakers suggest that recycling the revenue from the tax back into the economy through income tax cuts (for those who would bear a disproportional burden due to the tax) could solve this problem.

In conclusion, a tax on carbon emissions is one environmentally friendly alternative to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge because it will reduce the demand for harmful fossil fuels and will increase the development of energy efficient technology and renewable energy technology, both of which will result in enhanced energy security.

Drilling opposition

Continued from page 4

The other large myth is that the caribou that roam the coastal plains will be adversely affected. This is simply not true. British Petroleum (BP) is the principal exploration company in Northern Alaska, and they have proved for the last 25 years how environmentally conscious they really are. BP, as a corporation, has an incredible staff of the most environmentally conscious biologists working for them simply to study the environment and keep BP's footprints as small as possible. The fact about caribou

is that the herd that lives in Prudhoe Bay, the current large oil area, has quintupled in size since exploration first began in the 1970s. Mounds of evidence shows that the animals in the refuge have not been affected by the drilling. The oil company's interest is not above ground; it is below.

Drilling is also very economical. The exploration has the potential of creating up to 750,000 jobs nationwide and is a much cheaper option than continuous dependence on Middle Eastern oil. The harsh reality is that we will continue to be largely dependant on fossil fuels for years to come. Companies like

BP are very supportive of alternative energies like solar power. I am also a large proponent of these energies, but I realize that we currently have no alternative choice. ANWR has the potential of producing more than 10.4 billion barrels of oil, comparable to 30 years worth of oil from Saudi Arabia (www.anwr.org). If you are curious, visit my student website to see more about the immense environmental sensitivity that can be found in ANWR. I would be happy have a discussion with any who disagree with me, but I will say this: we Alaskans know how to do it right--we've been doing it for 25 years.

Contemporary political opinion

Peter Anderson
Staff Editor

CNN.com recently reported news that has provided the lie to the theory that an increase in states' rights will help protect the individual from the excesses of the national government. However, it seems state governments are proving to be no antithesis to the big spending and money grabbing of our national government.

The issue is cigarettes, or more precisely the \$206 billion dollars paid to 46 U.S. states to settle legal issues. The money was meant to reimburse the States for having to treat smoking related illnesses and to fund programs aimed at preventing children from smoking.

First of all, we must realize that treating these illnesses is not robbing the government of any wealth it had generated itself like an individual does, i.e. running a profitable business or wise stock investments. Thus tobacco companies are not indirectly robbing the government of money they earned.

Rather, taxpayer money is what funds government medical programs. Therefore the state governments are double dipping. They are funding medical care via taxpayers and receiving billions from the tobacco company, purportedly to do the same thing.

The state governments are not using the money to treat smoking-caused illnesses or prevent underage smoking. A recent study revealed that states are using roughly 32% of the settlement money to shore up budgets. It has been reported that only 5% of the settlement money has gone to programs that are to prevent tobacco use. So what of the money that is supposed to cover the costs of tobacco related illness? It appears not much has been used for this either, as evidenced by counties in Michigan and Pennsylvania. Counties in each of these states are planning to sue the tobacco industry because they claimed they haven't received adequate funds to treat smoking related illnesses. It makes one wonder why they

haven't sued the state for more settlement money or simply raised taxes.

A short history lesson on human rights is now relevant to illustrate my earliest point against those who promote states' rights. The claim to states' rights by the south led to the severe maltreatment of the blacks in the 1950s and 1960s. Our national government has fared no better and often times worse. We need look no further than our government's actions in putting down the Philippine uprising at the turn of the 20th century and the subjugation of the American Indians that continues to this day through entitlements.

The example of the lawsuit money shows that state governments have not resisted the lust for money and the desire to spend what is not theirs. Therefore we can conclude that an increase in a state government's power with a reduction in the national government's power is also no sure way to protect the rights of the individual.

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